

SECRET/NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER: 5179 SESSION NUMBER: 01
DATE OF SESSION: 28 SEPT 88 DATE OF REPORT: 29 SEPT 88
START: 1400 END: 1500
METHODOLOGY: WRV VIEWER IDENTIFICATION: 025

1. (S/NF/SK) MISSION: ACCESS AND DESCRIBE EMPEROR HIROHITO.
2. (S/NF/SK) VIEWER TASKING: TO ACCESS AND DESCRIBE THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE FOLDER.
3. (S/NF/SK) COMMENTS: IT TOOK QUITE AWHILE FOR THE VIEWER TO GET ON LINE HOWEVER, ONCE THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED THE VIEWER PROVIDED VERY GOOD INFORMATION. VIEWER WAS ABLE REPORT THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS INVOLVED IN A WAR AND THAT THE U.S. WAS INVADED. WHEN THE VIEWER WAS TRYING TO REPORT HIS TITLE, THE LETTERS E F E R M A N WERE REPORTED TO THE MONITOR. VIEWER ENDED UP REPORTING THE INDIVIDUAL AS A PRIEMIER. VIEWER WAS ABLE TO REPORT THE NAME OF ERIN AND IN THE ARTICLE EDWIN REISCHAUER IS MENTIONED. BECAUSE IT TOOK AWHILE TO GET ON LINE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT MORE INFORMATION COULD BE OBTAINED IN ANOTHER SESSION. *No inelmemies noted.*
4. (S/NF/SK) EVALUATION: 3

HANDLE VIA SKEET CHANNELS ONLY
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CLASSIFIED BY: DIA (DT)
DECLASSIFY: OADR

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SECRET

SUMMARY

WORKING PAPER

THIS INDIVIDUAL IS A MAN. HE IS FIERY AND OLD. HE WILL BE REPLACED. HIS TITLE HAS THE LETTERS U P E R I U M OR U R I P E M. THIS MAN LIVES IN A BEAUTIFUL HOME WITH A GOOD VIEW. THE COLOR YELLOW IS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS MAN. HIS COUNTRY IS ONE LIKE THE OLYMPICS. HE RULES OVER A COUNTRY. *(Compton?)*

THIS MAN WAS INVOLVED IN A WAR WITH THE U.S. THE U.S. WON THE WAR. THERE WAS A RARE OCCURRENCE BECAUSE THERE WAS AN INCURSION OR ENTRANCE INTO THE U.S. GERMANY WAS INVOLVED IN THE WAR. MAYBE WWII.

THIS MAN IS AN HEIR. SOMETHING ABOUT THE EYES. THIS MAN IS A PREMIERE.

SECRET

"Unexpectedly I was born, and could not visit Okinawa, where I had a duty to perform." — Emperor Hirohito, New Year 'waka', 1988.

Forty-two years after the god died, the man is dying, too. The life of Emperor Hirohito of Japan, the last surviving national leader of World War II and a "living god" for the first 20 years of his reign, is drawing to an end, and the Japanese are going to get a new style of emperor.

Hirohito is 87, and has been in slow decline since he had surgery for an intestinal obstruction a year ago (and had to cancel a scheduled trip to Okinawa). He was once ranked right alongside Hitler and Mussolini in Allied war propaganda, but in his later years it was difficult to envisage the shy emperor whose main enthusiasm was marine biology as a factor of any great importance in the world.

It is equally difficult to imagine Crown Prince Akihito as a mover and shaker: His best-known public achievement in 54 years of life has been to contribute a section about lobes to a book on fish. Yet the range of reign will have a profound effect on the collective emotional life of the Japanese.

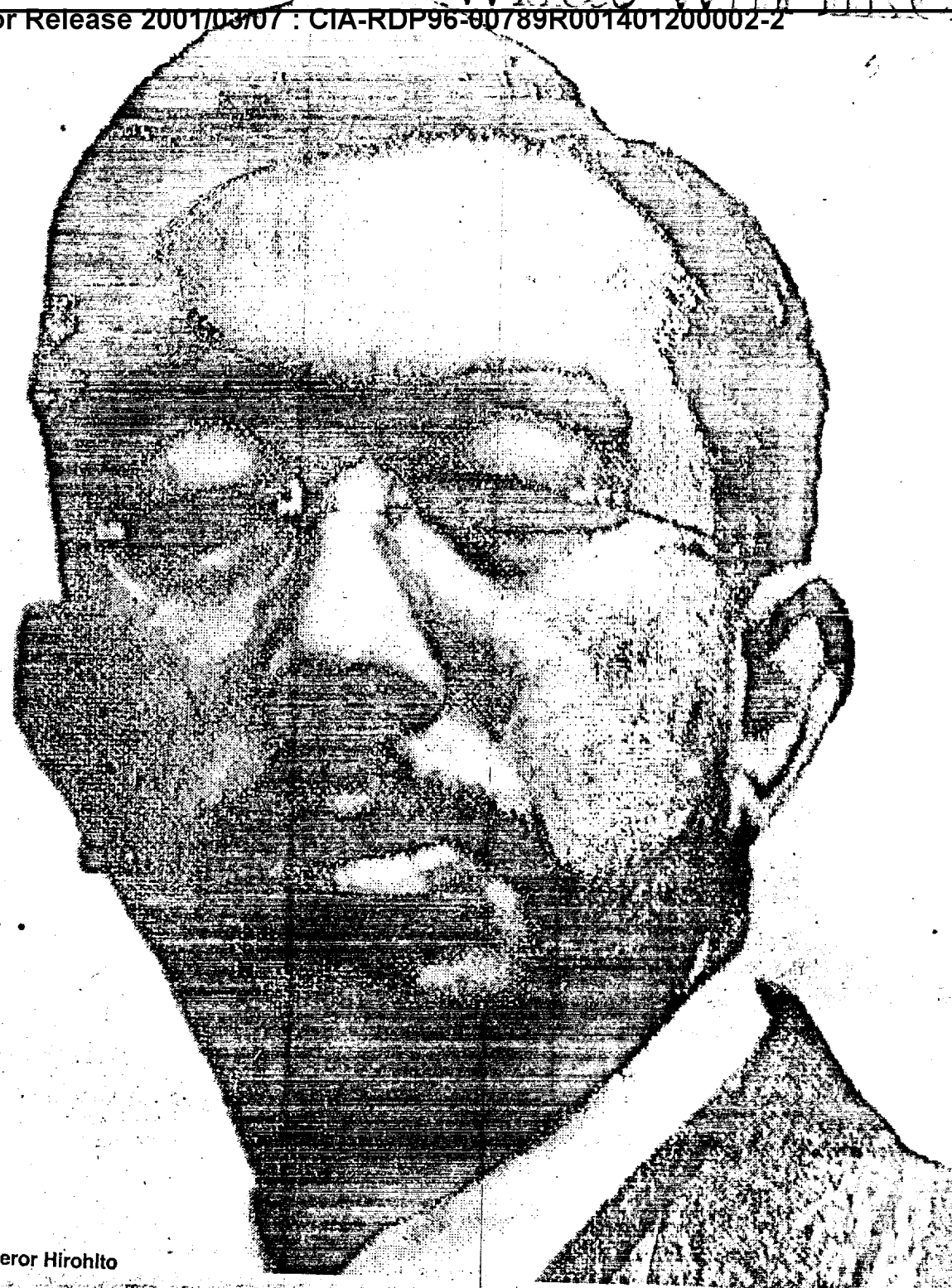
There is no Japanese under 60 who can remember a time when Hirohito was not on the throne: He was the country's entire modern story. When he came to the throne in 1926, Japan was still the poverty-stricken but ferociously determined underdeveloped country of whose inhabitants Rudyard Kipling once wrote that they were "not natives, not quite natives either."

And young Hirohito was literally god to most Japanese: When an unfortunate policeman misdirected imperial motorcade down an alley he disembowelled himself in penitence for his error. The emperor was incarnation of the Japanese people with absolute authority, and no ordinary mortal could look at him.

There is still a great deal of dispute about how much Hirohito personally exercised his authority, or how much he let it to other people. In the years leading up to World War II, but 15 years after ascending the throne he presided over a military empire controlling half of Asia.

Five years after that he presided over a defeated and hungry population huddled in its ruined cities (two of them devastated by atomic bombs) and the American conquerors required him to renounce his godhood. In the 1947 constitution, he was no longer the god-king, but only "a symbol of the state and the unity of the people."

Not much has been seen of the emperor in the succeeding four decades — usually only a couple of public appearances in 1988 on a balcony of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. And yet he was always present in the Japanese consciousness as a powerful symbol of continuity with the national past.



Emperor Hirohito

Sydney Dyer is a columnist in London, England.